

# Extras 161

## Chapter 161 The Royal Dungeon Incident [Pt 8]

"My goodness... Adonis."

Grand Mage Lucielle was currently staring at the boy that lay at her feet as she poured the liquid of the Recovery Potion into his barely open mouth.

She was lost for words as she looked at her student.

'I never knew he was this strong.'

Lucielle had been training everyone alongside Brutus, and she knew just how talented everyone was.

She already knew Adonis was not like the others, and that he was far stronger.

She also knew he trained in private.

But... even she could never expect him to have already advanced this far.

'In combat alone, he has already exceeded Brutus.'

The mere fact that he fought a Dragon Commander and managed to injure something like that several times proved it.

Even she wasn't confident of making such an accomplishment.

'If not for being distracted, he wouldn't have gotten injured.' Her thoughts flowed

She silently wished Adonis had just focused on the enemy, since she ended up saving the Otherworlders.

If he had done that, he wouldn't have gotten injured, and perhaps they could have even won.

However, Lucielle realized how unfair that thought was.

There was no way Adonis could have known that Lucielle would swoop in when she did. Besides, he had simply acted on reflex.

That was admirable, if nothing else.

'He just wanted to protect his friends...' She smiled sadly as she saw him slowly open his eyes.

Right now, Lucielle was using both Healing Magic and a Recovery Potion to restore Adonis' state.

From what she was able to see from the fight, he was their best hope in winning against such a monstrosity.

"T-thank you... Lucielle..." He whispered, slowly smiling at her.

"W-what are you even saying? I should be the one thanking you!"

Sure, she was the one who saved him from being destroyed by the Dragon Commander, and right now she was nursing him to full health.

But that didn't hold a candle to what Adonis had been doing thus far.

"N-no. Don't thank me. It was... all pointless..." Adonis groaned as he spoke.

His injuries had closed, but a lot of work had to be done with his internal organs.

"What are you—?"

"He's healed already. All that effort... all the damage... and he's healed already..."

As Adonis' voice trailed, Lucielle looked at the floating Dragon Commander in the sky.

He looked as good as new.

"It's so unfair, isn't it? We try so hard, and yet..." Adonis looked and sounded like he was about to break down and cry.

It wasn't like Lucielle didn't understand the boy's sentiment.

Even on the battlefield, the unfair advantage of the Dragons made war a living hell.

Dragons possessed incredible physical abilities and heightened Magical prowess.

They could also heal from injuries, as long as the damage inflicted wasn't fatal. Of course, the speed of the regeneration depended on the type of Dragon in question.

Other than these cheat-like advantages, they were also capable of far more in terms of Skills and overall Stats.

It was no joke.

They truly were the supreme race in H'Trae.

"I thought I could end it very quickly... but it seems I was too slow. Too indecisive. Too weak." As Adonis said this, he slowly sat up.

"No. Don't say that, Adonis. You did your best!"

The other students were currently throwing the best Skills and Magic attacks at the enemy, but none of them were even reaching him thanks to the spatial barrier he placed around himself.

Other than Adonis, no one had even managed to seriously hurt him.

"My best, huh? It wasn't enough to protect all those Mages and Knights that died for nothing."

Lucielle's face fell a little as she remembered the deaths that the Dragon Commander caused when he first arrived.

He must have somehow shifted space and compressed it on the frightened people who were still too stunned at the sight of a Dragon.

Some of them were even her protégés.

Yet, their deaths were so meaningless that it was an insult to the lives they had lived and the many years they dedicated to Magic.

"Do you think... we're going to make it out of here alive?" Lucielle finally blurted out.

She could no longer hold the burning question that echoed in her soul.

She knew she was the oldest of the surviving bunch, so naturally all responsibility had to fall on her. She was also meant to be the mature pillar of the group; leading them to victory thanks to her experience.

But right now, she was confused.

She had told the students to keep the Dragon occupied while she healed Adonis, but their attacks weren't doing anything.

Her Magic Barrier around them would wear out pretty soon, and it wasn't like the Dragon Commander couldn't simply bypass it.

Everything about this situation seemed hopeless—a despairing cage that would force them to keep fighting until they died.

Lucielle saw no hope of survival or victory.

She hoped that maybe... just maybe... Adonis was seeing something that she couldn't.

"I... I don't know."

Adonis' response did not meet her expectations.

"A-ahh..." Lucielle knew her face fell the moment he said those words.

"My Stats are about half what they were before. Even if I used my [Limit Transcendence], I would only be half as strong as I was before..."

It was despairing for Lucielle to even hear him utter those words.

'So this really is the end...?' She could feel her thoughts flowing.

"BUT, that doesn't mean I'll give up!"

As Adonis said this, he jumped to his feet, groaning a little as he stood.

"A-ah! I'm not done healing you, Adonis!" Lucielle yelled, stretching her hand towards him.

In response to this, Adonis grabbed her by the outstretched hand and pulled her up.

Before the Grand Mage realized it, she was on her two feet.

"Conserve your Mana, Lucielle. You'll need as much as you can in the upcoming fight."

Adonis' distant smile slowly faded as he turned to the Dragon Commander who seemed to be waiting for them from his high estate.

"You and I are going to fight that thing. I'll need all the help I can get."

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## **Chapter 162 The Royal Dungeon Incident [Pt 9]**

Adonis stretched out his hand, and his Divine Sword appeared out of nowhere.

As always, it glowed with indescribable majesty.

"Do you understand, Lucielle? It's you and me."

As Adonis said this, Lucielle felt her heart race. She realized just how dangerous the situation was, and how incredibly inadequate she was.

Yet, once he told her he needed her... she had no choice but to step forward and agree.

"Understood! Do you have a plan?"

A small smile formed on Adonis' face, and he gave her a very proud—almost melancholic look.

It felt different from the kind of gaze a student would give their teacher, or the kind that allies would share with each other.

This felt far more intimate.

"Thank you. And yes, I do have a plan..." Adonis took in a deep breath and heaved out a musty sigh.

"The plan is the same as always. To escape. The Item with me should allow us to travel to a higher Floor." As Adonis said this, he revealed a small cube that was hidden in his pocket.

It looked very similar to the 'The Gateway', but far smaller, with more intricate designs around it.

'He still hasn't revealed where he got that Item...' Lucielle's thoughts trailed.

However, as soon as it came, she dismissed the entire thing from her mind.

'There's no need to know that now. Besides, even if he says nothing, that doesn't remove the fact that it's all for our benefit.'

Adonis had already made it abundantly clear that he desired to help the world and save it from the tyranny of the Dragons.

Everything he did—whether it was what they understood or not—was to that effect.

He had Lucielle's full trust.

"We only have one chance to activate it, so we have to be very decisive and create the perfect window."

Adonis' plan was simple.

He and Lucielle would fight the Dragon Commander, getting all of its attention.

Once they had it distracted enough, they'd activate the portal to a higher Level and ensure their friends made it to a higher Level.

"The tricky part is what comes next." Adonis sighed.

Even after their friends escaped, they would have to leave too.

They couldn't do so if the Dragon Commander wasn't occupied in some way.

"We have to find a way to incapacitate him, or do something to that effect." Adonis said.

From what Lucielle could understand about the plan, though, she could see another alternative.

"One of us could stay behind." She said, her crimson eyes narrowing as she made the bold statement.

Based on Adonis' unsurprised reaction, it was clear that the thought had also occurred to him.

"I'll stay behind, Adonis. You should escape with the—"

"No! Don't you say another word!" His voice sounded aggressive, almost commanding.

Lucielle could see Adonis' face, and it was filled with a lot of pain.

"I won't leave you here! I'm never leaving you!" He growled.

Lucielle felt something in her heart move, but she wasn't quite sure what it was.

She held her chest a little as her heart raced faster than it had ever done before.

"We're all getting out! I'll make sure of it!"

As she heard Adonis say this, Lucielle found herself smiling despite the precarious situation they were all in.

"Thank you, Adonis."

The Hero only nodded to these words, but Lucielle knew they had reached an understanding.

To leave this dreary place together!

All of them!

"Looks like you're finally ready to fight. Unfortunately for you all, I've grown pretty tired of this."

As the Dragon Commander said this, he stretched out his hand.

Purple flashes of energy appeared above his palm, and before long—

~VWUUUUUUMMM!~

—A massive purple orb of compressed space was swirling there.

The Dragon Commander gazed down with its unfeeling eyes and had a cold look planted on his face.

It was a look of certainty.

"You've all entertained me for long enough, but it's about time for you to disappear. ALL OF YOU."

The swirling purple orb had enough power to achieve that.

Adonis and Lucielle knew that very well.

However...

"On my mark, Lucielle!"

"Understood!"

... They weren't going to give up that easily.

"Die!"

~WHOOOSH!~

Adonis and Lucielle sped from their individual positions, with cackles of energy flashing all around their bodies.

Lucielle was surrounded by wind and lightning as she took off into the air, while Adonis flew right ahead with his golden cloak of power.

He brandished his Divine Sword and called out a name that had never been uttered until now.

"[AVALON]!"

In an instant, a forceful push of golden energy, mixed with several other multicolored layers of light flowed and filled the area.

The dark purple thing that descended from the Dragon Commander was met with this force of a multitude of lights.

The result was inevitable.

Light triumphed.

~BOOOOOOMMM!!~

The orb appeared to have imploded on itself, and just as Adonis recoiled from the blast, pushed back by the sheer pressure, Lucielle had already caught up to him and grabbed him by his hand.

Twisting in the air, she swung him upward, flying ahead herself.

"[Lightning Convent]!" She yelled, creating several flashes of lightning in the area.

Adonis smiled as he glided in the air, already recognizing her plan.

He went straight for his foe, who easily vanished from his position the moment he got too close.

However, the moment he teleported, a flash of lightning appeared in the distorted space, striking him down the instant he reappeared.

"W-what?!"

The damage didn't seem to be very much, but the sudden electric current that coursed throughout the Dragon Commander's body was enough to stun him.

... And that gave Adonis enough time to close their distance.

As he used Light Magic to draw nearer, Lucielle used Wind Magic to propel his target towards him.

With their combined efforts, Adonis was able to get a slash across.

Unfortunately for him, he was a tad too slow.

~WHUSH!~

The Dragon Commander appeared right behind Lucielle this time, his grin widening as he reached out to kill her first.

However, a surge of powerful lightning coursed through her body the moment he made contact, sending him into another state of shock.

Her enchanted outfit wasn't for nothing, after all.

"[Windfall]!" She yelled, causing the air to grow remarkably heavy where the Dragon Commander floated.

Even his powerful wings were no longer able to keep up, so he was forced to descend.

He once again teleported upon seeing Adonis quickly approach him; this time making his way to the five teenagers who seemed to be out of Mana already.

Since the first two were too bothersome, he decided to just destroy the five easiest targets first.

He commanded space to close in on them and crush them the same way he did to the fools who defied him the first time.

In a single ~Splat!~ they would be dead.

However...

"Hm? What's this?!"

One of the students seemed to be pushing away the pressure of space itself as his muscles bulged.

'The same guy who launched the crimson blast towards me. Does he have some sort of resistance to 'crush damage?'

It didn't make sense to resist space itself—even if it was rendered hard to crush people.

Another student—a female—was also using Wind Magic to somehow lessen the pressure by pushing currents upward.

Their combined efforts saved their lives, and the lives of the three others who seemed powerless in the situation.

'The hell...?!'

Unfortunately for the Dragon Commander, he didn't have time to ponder on what was happening right before his eyes, as the two who were fighting him descended from the air and approached him from multiple directions.

'Tch! Annoying!'

They rushed towards him with their bodies sparkling with energy.

The female Mage sent a torrent of flames his way, but he easily disrupted it with a swing of his tail.

At the same time, the Hero tried to slash him with the Divine Sword that he wielded.

He made to teleport again, but the female Mage used Wind Magic to push him closer to the approaching Hero, thus making him have less time to retreat.

As he retaliated by shooting a blast from his mouth, he was stopped by the [Absolute Defense] of his adversary.

He tried to open a portal and attack him from beyond the barrier.

However, he accidentally slid on the ground thanks to it becoming all slippery and muddy—the result of the Mage's Magic.

'Annoying! They're both annoying!'

This process continued for quite a long time—with Lucielle and Adonis constantly interrupting and interfering with his attacks.

Somehow, it seemed he had gotten predictable while they remained dynamic.

As a Dragon... it was a compromising state to be in.

However, for the humans, this was the perfect time to enact their time.

"Now, Lucielle!"

~VWUUUSSH!!~

It was finally time to escape!

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## **Chapter 163 The Royal Dungeon Incident [Pt 10]**

"Pure Blindness!"

That was the Spell that Lucielle cast specifically on the Dragon Commander, causing him to stumble back while attempting to teleport.

Adonis took this chance to slash him partially on his stomach before he was finally able to disappear.

At the same time, the portal generated from Adonis' cube opened wide for the students to pass through—of course, carrying Brutus along with them.

The moment they all saw the multicolored layer of space open up before them, they all rushed towards it.

Since it was directly in front of them, it wasn't a difficult thing to do.

All they had to do was run in... and they would be free.

However—

~BZZZTTTZZZZ!~

—It was not as easy as that.

"Kyaaaaa!!!"

The students were sent hurtling back the moment they tried to get into the portal.

The pressure alone was enough to send them flying over fifty meters from the buzzing portal.

The once-multicolored opening in space was now a different color—purple—and it had an unknown buzz about it.

It almost felt like an electrifying glitch.

"Hahahaha!"

The wild cackle that came from above made it clear to everyone who the perpetrator was.

The Dragon Commander, now floating in majesty above the confused and scared bunch, seemed to be in pure glee despite the slash mark that was embedded in his stomach.

It was no bother for him though, as the wound would soon close.

"You fools! You really thought you could escape using a wormhole through space?" His voice was tinged in amusement.



He laughed with genuine fervor, as if he could not believe the stupidity of the humans beneath his sight.

"My main thing is manipulating space! How did you even think you could get away using something that's my specialty?!"

It didn't matter whether he was distracted or not; the Dragon Commander could always sense a warp in space since that was connected to his S-Tier [Absolute Spatial Magic].

He could also control the warps in space from his area of influence—which meant he could cause the event-horizon to be too unstable for anyone to pass through.

"Closing it is a different matter entirely, since it's a two-way portal, and the other end is outside my range, but I could just prevent any of you from going in!"

As the Dragon said all of these things, the message was clear to everyone who heard.

There was no way to escape him!

"Pathetic! You're all so pathetic!"

He could see the despair written on their faces, and he reveled in it.

When was the last time he got the chance to mess with humans like this? It had been so long that the Dragon Commander soon forgot the humiliation he suffered not too long ago.

Instead, he drowned in his superiority.

"You fools remind me of that other Knight and his followers. I ended up killing the rest very quickly, but I brought him here—to this Floor—because I wanted to see what he could do."

The wide grin of the Dragon widened to the extreme as he spoke.

"He tried his best—fighting a pointless battle he could never win."

The only reason Brutus was spared was because he was the only source of entertainment for the Dragon.

His work was pretty tedious and boring, so having a human performer constantly struggle gave him enough satisfaction and motivation to do his job.

There was nothing more satisfying than watching weaklings try to act strong.

It was just too amusing!

"What do you want exactly? Just let us go!" One of the five students yelled out, tears in her eyes.

Her eyes glowed pink, and he could feel his vision slowly get blurry.

But that soon passed in a second.

"Did you, a mere human, try to use Mind Control on me?" The Dragon Commander asked her.

The girl's audacity didn't amuse him.

Instead, it felt insulting—too insulting for him to withstand.

"I'll be killing you first." He growled.

The moment he said this, the girl squeaked and fell to the ground. Her knees gave out, and she trembled endlessly.

Tears streamed down her eyes as she shivered in downright fear.

Her final card had been rendered ineffective.

She was doomed.

"Don't cry, Belle." A voice suddenly echoed in the depths of her despondency.

It came from none other than the Hero—Adonis.

He had his glorious sword in hand, and his hair danced with the flowing wind.

"I'll make sure to get you—no, all of us—out of here."

As he said this, another round of laughter echoed from the Dragon Commander.

"And how exactly do you plan to do that? You're trapped! You're weakening! Even though you brought some supplies of potions, they'll soon run out!"

He simply stated facts, spitting it in their faces.

"As for me, I'm perfectly fine!"

Spatial Magic took up a lot of Mana—even for Dragons.

However, since Dragons naturally had a way to recover Mana, it didn't really matter how long he could go on for.

The Dragon Commander could just alternate between simple and complex Spells depending on the Level of his Mana at the moment.

Either way, a single strike from him was lethal.

None of his enemies could withstand it.

To prove that to them, the Dragon Commander stretched out both of his hands and used the very first attack he ever did.

—Spatial Collapse.

~VWUUUUUMMM!!~

This time, however, the force was far more than before.

All the teenagers before him fell to their knees, feeling their bodies press on the ground as their bones grated with one another.

The only reason they weren't yet smush was thanks to the Hero's ability to distort space with his sword, but even that was not enough.

Sooner or later, they would be nothing but splatters of paste.

All of them—without exception—struggled on the ground under his power.

The Dragon Commander knew it within himself that the end had arrived.

And a Dragon's intuition was never wrong.

Then—

~SHUU~

A figure suddenly appeared out of the purple portal, shattering the unstable layer of energy that corrupted it.

"H-huh...?!"

The Dragon Commander was confused as he looked away from his adversaries and stared at the one who had just arrived.

He was coated in a hooded cloak, dressed like an agent of the night.

Red fur decorated his mostly black attire, and he had an obsidian mask on that hid his face—save his eyes.

What appeared like horns poked out of the hoodie that covered his masked face, and his inner attire was a buttoned black shirt and black trousers, girded by a dark brown belt.

Everything about him appeared strange and mysterious, and the air around him seemed to radiate sheer, unquestionable power.

"Hey..." The figure finally spoke, revealing his deep voice.

The air seemed to tremble as he spoke.

Even the seemingly invincible Dragon Commander found his body shaking a little as he heard the sound.

Something about this existence bothered him—almost as if he shouldn't exist.

All the Dragon's intuition told him that the man beneath was dangerous.

Then, the next words of the man arrived, forever altering the current tides.

"... Are you the enemy?"

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## **Chapter 164 Rey's Descent [Pt 1]**

[Moments Earlier]

"Damn... I didn't think this through."

As Rey slaughtered the last of his enemies on the 31st Floor, he heaved a heavy sigh.

It was a lava-like area, with flame geysers all over the area, and hot magma flowing like rivers all over the area.

His enemies were Flame Salamanders—one of the most powerful C-Tier Monsters to exist.

Of course, he easily defeated them, so they weren't the issue.

The Boss' corpse currently sat at his feet, so it wasn't also a challenge for him.

Even the incredibly hot environment wasn't the issue for Rey—not the one that mattered at the moment.

"I can't believe I'll have to keep going down these Floors until I reach the bottom."

The lower Rey descended, the wider the Dungeon Floor seemed to get.

Even though he wasn't really holding back, and was easily decimating all his enemies, he estimated that it would take him hours before he reached the Lowest Floor.

'Can it wait that long? I'm not sure...'

Rey felt stuck, but he had to keep moving forward.

"Haa..." He sighed, the heavy breath leaking out of his new mask.

In fact, it wasn't just his mask that was new.

Everything about his attire had now changed into something different—something better.

His Orichalcum mask was replaced with something softer, but far more durable than the former.

That ensured he was more comfortable with his mask, while ensuring his wasn't compromised.

Since his new mask was also enchanted, that meant he was enjoying all the benefits of a special mask without the disadvantages.

This was just the start, though.

His entire outfit—from his cloak, to his belt, to his boots, to both of his gloves, to the ten rings that decorated his fingers, and the three necklaces hidden under his black shirt, and the bracelets under his sleeve, and the headband hidden under his mask...

He currently had 35 Items equipped—all gotten from the KariBlanc Group.

'It's a shame they don't have any Item that gives long-distance teleportation.' Rey sighed as he looked to his side.

The Half-Elf girl he kept in her bubble was still unconscious, which made him relieved.

He didn't want to start dealing with her when his hands were already full.

By using both Sound and Wind Magic to ensure she was comfortable, and no noise reached her in the slightest, Rey believed she could just as well sleep through the entire ordeal.

"Welp! On to the next floor!"

With merely a casual stomp, Rey easily destroyed the entrance to the next Dungeon Floor.

The whole thing shattered apart, allowing Rey to descend to the next Floor.

"Haaa... much better." He muttered, feeling glad to see a nice change in his surroundings.

Several aged trees and large boulders greeted his sight, revealing how this space was going to be particularly filled with enemies that had shared properties.

It looked beautiful, though—the Dungeon Floor.

"It's a shame..."

Unfortunately for this entire area, it was soon going to be ruined by Rey and his hurried attempt to advance as fast as possible

"[Black Hole]." He muttered, releasing a dark sphere into the surrounding area.

One would think he was done, but he was just getting started.

"[Black Hole]."

"[Black Hole]."

"[Black Hole]."

More black orbs swept through the area and began to consume everything in Rey's path.

Both enemies and landmarks were destroyed—all without mercy.

'I don't sense any valuable resources that can be used by the Alliance here, so they can all just die.'

This also meant the Monster Cores would be wasted as well, but beggars couldn't be choosers.

He was in a hurry, after all.

"Let's proceed!"

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Within minutes, Rey was already in the 33rd Floor, a wry smile playing on his lips as he was met with several enemies who looked like Orcs.

They had gray skin, though, so he didn't quite know what they were.

With a sleight of his hand, he used [Absolute Wind Magic] to turn them into mincemeat and proceeded without much issues.

Monster Cores fell to the ground, and he didn't even bother with them.

He was flying at a fast pace, simply killing the orca as he was advancing faster than they could even detect.

Then—within minutes—he reached the Boss Room.

"GRUUU—!"

~WHOOOOSH!~

The giant Orc who stood at least 10 meters tall, was shredded into pieces and died on the spot.

There was no ceremony or small talk.

It was just instant subjugation—plain and simple.

Once again, Rey ignored the massive Monster Core that fell with the rest of the Boss' entrails.

He simply went to the next Floor's entrance and was about to advance.

Then—

~VWUUSH!~

A sudden spark of spatial energy appeared behind Rey, causing him to look in its direction in an instant.

That was when he saw it—the swirling distortion in space.

It radiated multicolored ambiance, and Rey found it impossible to look away from the thing.

In a single flash of [Quick Teleport], he was right in front of the portal.

'The hell...?'

Rey knew he shouldn't just trust things he saw on random, so he didn't.

Instead, he relied on his S-Tier Skill [Absolute Appraisal].

[Gateway Portal]

[Connects the 99th Floor to the 33rd Floor]

[Current Status: One-Way Portal]

"For real?!" Rey didn't realize when he shouted his thoughts.

He covered his masked mouth, soon realizing there was no one around to even hear him.

He felt stupid at that point, but quickly recovered.

"So this will take me to the 99th Floor. That's nice!"

Rey remembered the Rescue Plan involving something about a Portal. But it didn't make sense for it to be a one-way portal that was open on his end.

Besides, why weren't Adonis and his people rushing out at this period.

It told Rey that something was definitely wrong.

'The plan must have gone awry somehow.'

Since [Danger Sense] wasn't telling him the thing was dangerous, Rey considered entering.

'Might as well hurry too, since the portal might close at any time.'

Before that, though, Rey knew he had to exercise caution.

Beyond this portal was an enemy that Adonis, Lucielle, Brutus, and the rest couldn't beat.

If they could, they would have already been on their way.

'I considered the possibility that they could be stuck on each of the Floors, which is why I made sure to pass through all of them and not rely on shortcuts.'

But so far, Rey had seen no one.

The fact that this Portal had opened here—and it was connected to the 99th Floor—meant it was supposed to be their escape hatch.

If that was the case, then he needed all the help he could get.

"Status Window." Rey whispered.

[STATUS WINDOW]

- Name: Rey Skylar.

- Race: Human (Otherworlder)

- Class: Elite Enigma (B-Tier)

- Level: 69 (78.54% EXP)
- Life Force: 22 (+68) [+300]
- Mana Level: 149 (+68) [+500]
- Combat Ability: 130 (+68) [+500]
- Stat Points: 0
- Skills (Exclusive): [Doppel]
- Skills (Non-Exclusive): Nil
- Alignment: Neutral

[Additional Information]

You are a mystery to the world. While the underworld trembles in your presence, those on the surface do not understand your true strength

Are you strong? Are you weak? No one knows.

[End Of Information]

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[Skill Categories]

~ Attack Category: 30

~ Defense Category: 13

~ Buff Category: 12

~ Miscellaneous: 12

[New Skills: Please Select Their Categories]

~ B-Tier: Gateway Portal

[Total Skills: 68]

"I see..." Rey smiled as he took steps forward.

"Let's go inside."

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## **Chapter 165 Rey's Descent [Pt 2]**

~BZZTZZ!~

As Rey entered, trying to reach the other side, he felt some kind of interference in the spatial rupture.

'What's going on?'

It felt like, while the entrance was easy to pass through, the exit gave him issues.

He couldn't come out.

'Is this an ability being used?'

The distortions of space made everything around Rey to be extremely warped, so he decided to take a step back and return to the 33rd Floor.

Once he did, he felt a wave of relief wash over him, though his surprise was palpable.

'Status Window: List of Doppel Skills.'

As soon as Rey said this, huz System Window popped in front of him, and he was able to see what the problem was.

"S-Tier Skill... Absolute Spatial Magic?"

It didn't take too long for him to figure the rest out.

'The enemy is someone who can use Spatial Energy?!'

It all made sense now! All the pieces began to come to Rey as he thought about the circumstances behind the entire Royal Dungeon incident.

'Brutus' appearance in the 99th Floor, the fact that the escape portal isn't working as it should...'

As Rey thought of this, he reconsidered the possibility that a Monster could have actually slaughtered the Hobgoblins and taken their treasure.

'It's possible to teleport throughout the Dungeon with such a Skill. But...'

His brows narrowed as he logically examined the situation.

'Why would an S-Tier Monster be here? Could it be an evolved being? A mutant?'

As Rey thought of this, he felt a surge of slight fear envelop him.

'The most powerful monsters I've faced are C-Tier. They're easy to deal with, but I can't be sure about S-Tier ones.'

In all honesty, Rey wasn't confident in his victory at all.

'Thankfully, I got this Skill before I ventured in. At least, I'm not running in completely blind.'

He was relieved by that, at the very least.

'I also have a bunch of S-Tier Skills of my own now. I think I should be fine...'

Rey closed his eyes, took a deep breath and sighed.

This was the moment of truth; and he was about to face a being that was most likely going to be the most powerful foe he had ever fought.

How did he feel about it?

"Hehe... hehehehe... heee..."

Slowly, his lips curled up and he made a maniacal grin underneath his mask.

Chuckles graduated into cackles of laughter, and it echoed throughout the space surrounding him.



"This is exciting!"

He could feel his heart racing and his blood boiling, and while it was impossible to tell if it was due to excitement or fear, Rey dismissed the latter.

What he felt now was nothing short of excitement.

'I've never had to go all-out on a Monster before! But now...!' He found himself grinning the widest he had ever done.

Both of his arms spread out, and he raised his head to the ceiling while laughing.

'... Now, I'm going to do just that!'

Plus, if he defeated such a powerful monster, he could gain tons of EXP and Level Up!

He could also improve his alter-ego's image.

This was the best-case scenario, was it not?

"It is!"

More laughter echoed throughout the room until he found out that he was being a weirdo.

'I should probably stop now...'

And so, with his stifled laughter, Rey chose to step into the wormhole before him.

The Half-Elf in her bubble was right behind him as he did so, and Rey wondered if he should take her with him or not.

'It's going to be too dangerous. But, if I don't stay close to her, my Magic will stop working.'

He had purchased defensive Magic Items, but he wasn't quite sure that they would be enough to help in this instance.

In the end, Rey made the decision.

'I'll leave her behind.'

He dropped her on the ground and placed a necklace around her neck.

The moment he did so, a barrier—shaped like a semi-sphere—surrounded her.

It glowed with yellowish-white energy, and when Rey knocked on it, it was pretty tough.

'I've defeated all the Monsters on this Floor, so I don't think she'll be in any real danger.'

Taking her down with him would only cause problems for both of them.

'Just keep sleeping till I return. Hopefully, this doesn't take too long...'

As Rey had this thought, he made a heavy sigh and left her alone.

In front of him was the portal, and within seconds, he was venturing into it again.

~VWUUSH!~

As the multicolored distortion of space swallowed him up, he could feel the resistance at the other end again.

However, he pulled out the S-Tier Ability he just learned.

'[Absolute Spatial Magic].'

And that was enough...

~FSHUUU~

... To grant him entry into the world beyond.

\*\*\*\*\*

The atmosphere was very tense.

Lights generated from the Mana Crystals all around illuminated the incredibly large expanse, creating an air of beauty.

However, this beauty was tainted by the dried blood and mashed corpses that remained splattered on the ground surface.

Traces of severe destruction could also be seen all around him.

A small distance from the observer were eight individuals—the ones he sought. One was unconscious, while the other seven were struggling under an invisible pressure.

It looked like it would crush them at any moment.

An ugly cackle of laughter filled the room, but it wasn't his

No... it belonged to an entity that was above.

The entity stopped laughing all of a sudden and glared at him with its purple eyes.

'T-that is...?!'

This was a humanoid being with long bluish black hair that flowed down his shoulders to his back.

He had horns—three of them—and wings that flapped high in the air. He also had a powerful-looking tail, with traces of scales in important areas of his body.

All in all, this wasn't the monster he was looking for.

But... he also wasn't a man.

It prompted the masked one—whether he could be called Rey, or Ralyks—to open his lips and speak.

"Hey..."

His voice was audacious, but he didn't really care at that point.

He just wanted to know one thing.

"... Are you the enemy?"

\*

## Chapter 166 Ralyks Arrives

The stale air in the 99th Floor slowly moved as the warring parties both gazed upon the stranger that had interrupted their battle.

... Or rather, the execution.

The man in question was coated in darkness and crimson.

He looked strong, and his imposing build made it clear that he was no ordinary man.

As both the humans and Dragon saw him, they only had one thought.

"Who is he?!"

As if listening to their internal questions, the man of darkness stepped forward and gave a slight sigh.

"My name is Ralyks. I am an Adventurer, and I was tasked with rescuing you people."

The one called Ralyks was currently looking in the direction of Adonis and his comrades.

The weight of the space above them had lessened, but it was heavy nonetheless.

They couldn't let up for even a moment, but their eyes beamed the moment they heard of a rescue.

However, they soon dimmed once they remembered the true nature of their adversary.

Not even an Adventurer stood a chance.

"You can't—!"

"Before you say anything, though..." Ralyks interrupted Adonis and stretched his hand towards the space above them,

"... Let's get rid of that, shall we?"

In a single pulse of energy, Ralyks easily caused the crushing space above them to relax.

The seven gasped in relief and awe as the unbearable burden on their bodies were removed so easily.

They turned to thank him, but he was no longer in his previous position.

"I'm here."

Their gazes landed right in front of them, and there he stood,

The Adventurer Ralyks!

Whether it was teleportation or not, he had gotten right next to them without anyone even realizing it.

His speed and strength were something else.

"S-Sir Ralyks... about what you said..."

"We'll talk later." His words interrupted Adonis, and the speaker didn't even bother looking back.

His gaze was on the silent Dragon Commander.

"Right now the enemy is in sight."

The moment Ralyks said this, Adonis' eyes widened, his face slowly conforming into that of realization.

"Y-you're right!"

He struggled to stand, but Adonis did so anyway. Lucielle also rose to her feet, staggering as she tried to find her balance.

"L-let us fight by your side." Adonis said, taking a step forward.

"Hmm?"

Ralyks took a small glance back, his crimson eye barely looking at the two who resolutely wanted to keep up the fight.

"Y-yeah! We can surely help!" Lucielle's voice echoed next.

Both of them were ready to protect their friends and defeat the beast that hovered above them.

... No matter the cost!

"Sir Ralyks, you're strong! I can tell! If we combine our might, then surely we'd be able to defeat that Dragon Commander!"

"Dragon... Commander... huh?"

That word was enough to strike fear into many, but the way Ralyks spoke of the title felt a little too... irreverent.

It almost seemed like he didn't care.

"Let us help and—!"

"No. There's no need." Ralyks raised his hand and stopped the duo from approaching him any further.

Tension spread about the area as his cloak danced behind him.

"B-but—!"

"The both of you are exhausted. You've also nearly depleted your Mana. Am I wrong?"

The hesitation on their faces the moment Ralyks said this made it clear that he was spot-on.

They were both in very bad shape.

"S-still...!"

They couldn't just sit still.

This was a foe that the Hero himself could not defeat on his own. He couldn't even do it with the assistance of the strongest Mage in the United Human Alliance.

Even the Head Warrior was defeated very easily.

The only way they stood a chance was if they all worked together to take it down.

At least, that was what they thought.

"There's no need to involve you two—or any of the others. You've done well to hold out until this very moment."

The words of Ralyks did not pose arrogance or conceit, but there was an otherworldly confidence that was being displayed.

"You opened the gateway that led me here. You survived up until this point..."

At this point, he fully turned towards them, his crimson eyes as bright as the stars in the night sky.

"You did well. Stand proud, you two."

Somehow, hearing the words of an absolute stranger—  
shrouded in mystery—made the two extremely flustered.

They went weak in their knees, and before they realized it, they collapsed to the ground.

Their exhaustion was now clear for all to see.

However, rather than scoff at them for being weak, the man called Ralyks seemed to imply the opposite.

While he didn't tell it to their face, it was clear what he implied by his words.

"You are strong!"

And that was enough for the two.

They watched him from their low estate—with expressions of worry mixed in with hope.

"Y-you're confident you don't need any help? What if you—"

"Nah, I'd win."

That was all that needed to be said.

At this point, Adonis remembered the words of someone—a comrade he held in high regard.

The words he was told by that person

"Don't lose..."

He couldn't see what was under Ralyks' mask, but Adonis somehow felt the man was smiling underneath.

No more words proceeded from his lips, and he simply stepped forward, leaving Adonis and his friends behind.

Somehow, they all felt they were safe.

After all... Ralyks was here.

\*\*\*\*\*

'I'm not sure this will work, but...'

Rey's gaze narrowed as he stared at the floating being before him.

'[Absolute Appraisal].'

[STATUS WINDOW]

- Name: Jer'ard
- Race: Dragon (Dark Species)
- Class: Commander (C-Tier)
- Level: 50 (91.34% EXP)
- Life Force: 500/900
- Mana Level: 300/1,200
- Combat Ability: 450
- Stat Points: 0
- Skills (Exclusive): Nil
- Skills (Non-Exclusive): [Absolute Spatial Magic]. [Greater Mana Recovery]. [Greater Regeneration]. [Claw Attack]. [Dragon Breath:Dark]. [Draconic Flight]. [Draconic Resistance]. [Draconic Power].
- Alignment: Neutral Evil

[Additional Information]

A Dragon Commander who is one of many tasked with mining and delivering mineral resources to his Lord. He's pretty average for a Dragon Commander, but a powerful enemy regardless.

He is currently in humanoid form, so he is not at full power.

[End Of Information]

'Ahh... I see.'

Rey found himself smiling wryly.

As the enemy's Stats and abilities manifested right in front of his eyes, he could feel the entire world coming to a grinding halt.

'So this is how it's going to be...'

\*

## **Chapter 167 Dragons Will Be Dragons**

"It seems you are indeed the enemy..."

As Rey spoke, he brought out a sword seemingly out of thin air.

The blade was obsidian black, with several runes written on its flat surface. The runes glowed as he poured energy through its hilt.

This was one of the items he bought, and until now it was hidden in his [Inventory].

"... Filthy Dragon." Rey pointed his blade at his opponent, a wide grin on his face.

No one could see his smile, though.

The only thing evident to everyone was the grim mask of darkness that shrouded his face.

'I've seen your Stats and Skills. You're incredibly strong—stronger than anything I've ever faced. However...'

Rey felt relieved. Like a heavy weight had been lifted from his chest.

'... I can win!'

"What... are you?" The voice of the Dragon Commander—Jer'ard—rang in the air.

Rey took caution as he stared at him, though he gave no response.

"Your presence... your power... it's difficult to assess."

Rey wondered what the Dragon Commander was seeing from his heights.

"I can clearly tell that you're weaker than me, but there's something else. What... who are you? Hmm..."

'Such calmness in front of a stranger.' Rey smiled to himself.

This one was really confident.

He had read a lot about Dragons, especially their natural abilities such as their intuition, but not much was known about three-horned Dragons.

Dragon Commanders were rarely seen—even in the battlefield—so it was difficult to extract enough information about them.

'And it seems this one is an average example of a Dragon Commander. His Stats alone are wild.'

No human could ever hope to come close to a Dragon in power.

The fact that both Adonis and Lucielle couldn't beat it with their combined power didn't come as a surprise to Rey at this point.

No one in the entire United Human Alliance stood a chance against this thing.

No one but him.

'It has Spatial Magic—one of the rarest kinds of Magic—and a bunch of other great Skills. That's good...'

For Rey, he was simply grateful that his enemy was so strong, and he possessed such a variety of abilities.

'EXP and Skills. I'll be having both soon!'

Of course, he knew he couldn't be careless. Not in front of a beast such as this.

Dragons were known to be merciless.

They looked down on other beings of H'Trae as inferior creatures.

'I'm even surprised he hasn't killed everyone already...'

Rey could see blood stains as remnants of mangled flesh in the distance, so he knew that the Dragon Commander had gotten rid of the other members of the Rescue Team.

The fact that he could only see Brutus also meant that his entire team had been wiped out.

Rey felt his heart tighten, but he didn't take it to heart.

It wasn't like he knew those people very well, and he had seen worse earlier in the day.

'Monsters will be Monsters. Dragons will be Dragons.'

That was his philosophy.

He could talk to Monsters and even joke around with them. However, when it came to Dragons—or at least, this one—Rey didn't want to utter a word.

'The most intelligent Monsters are still somewhat primal. Their instinct is to kill and destroy...'

But Dragons were different.

Dragons were a very intelligent race—rumored to be even more advanced than every other Nation in H'Trae.

They were also very strong.

'Yet they choose to wage a meaningless war. They choose to engage in pointless violence and drown the world in despair.'

Rey had initially considered the possibility that Dragons could have a good reason behind their actions.

Perhaps they lacked resources, or their lands were overpopulated and they needed to expand their territory.

That wouldn't make their actions right, but he could at least see the reasoning.

There was even the possibility that the humans—or some other race—struck first, and this was simply the retribution that followed.

But... that wasn't the case at all.

'If any of those scenarios were true, humanity would have been wiped out already.'

The Dragons were too strong! They could easily take over the battlefield with half a dozen Dragon Commanders—at least from the Stats that Rey was seeing before him.

A Dragon stronger than a Commander would absolutely wreck everything.

But... none of them were invading.

Why?!

'It almost feels like some kind of twisted game. They're just crushing humans like ants, without even putting in the effort.'

There really wasn't any need for a long-drawn conflict between humans and Dragons.

'Yet here we are.' Rey sighed internally.

The humans banded together to form the Alliance, taking steps to improve and grow in order to fight the Dragons and triumph.

Rey was sure the other Nations of H'Trae were making similar moves.



But...

'It's all useless.'

Rey was an advocate for innovation and adaptation, but he also knew the ugly truth—and it was staring him in the eye right now.

'Against true power, there's nothing they can do.'

How long would it take for the humans to amass the kind of power needed to stop the Dragons? A few hundred years? A couple thousand?

It was going to take a remarkably long time.

Comparing that to the level of damage that the Dragons were already wrecking, it was easy to see the latter would emerge victorious before the humans could even raise a finger against them.

'They're not being stupid or complacent. They are already certain of their victory.' Rey smiled to himself, almost feeling the futility of it all.

These predators were merely enjoying the thrill of the hunt.

It reminded Rey of his little experiment with the Hobgoblins—  
how he bred them for the purpose of growing stronger for his sake.

The Hobs were never going to be stronger than him.

He made sure of that.

However, he wanted to make sure they were 'strong enough' for his purposes.

'That's what all of this is.'

In a way, he could understand what they were doing.

However, there was one major difference between his experiment with the Hobgoblins and the current situation with the Dragons.

—The difference that made the latter unacceptable.

'I don't like being on the Hobgoblin side of the story.'

To Rey, being the predator was fine... as long as he was the one doing the hunting.

He had to be the predator.

His side had to be the one with the power and control.

'It's unfortunate that I was summoned into this side of the narrative. But, now that I'm here, there's only one thing to do.'

Rey felt his blood rising as he prepared for combat.

'I just need to flip the script!'

The Dragons had surely enjoyed a long while being the most powerful beings to exist.

There was nothing wrong in changing that now.

'I'm sure no Dragon Commander has been killed by a human—at least, not in a very long time.'

No book he read had shown even the slightest hint of humans defeating the three-horned.

And that made him excited beyond words.

'Let's change history! Right here and now!'

Once Rey's mind was made up, he decided to simply go all-out against his enemy.

'I'm going to use them all!'

## **Chapter 168 Going All Out**

"Huu..."

Without wasting time, Rey decided to take the initiative and activate his Skills.

No holding back.

'[Absolute Defense]. [Grand Armament]. [Holy Shield]. [Greater Warrior's Mantle]. [Greater Protection Field]. [Greater Battle Aura]. [Safe Haven]. [Perception]. [Super Speed]. [Farsight]. [Danger Sense]. [Super Strength]. [Breakdown]. [Lightning Coat]. [Burning Aura]. [Mana Cloak]. [Energy Shield]. [Quick Feet]. [Eye Of Truth]. [Flight].'

Rey kept Skills like [Absolute Healing] on standby, in case he needed it.

His Passive Skills; [Grand Magic Mastery], [Grand Magic Application], [Item Equip], [Greater Full Resistance], [Quick Casting], [Hiddenness], [Greater Energy Recovery], and [Combat Application] were already active.

However, Rey wasn't done.

He was prepared to use the rest of his Skills at any time.

Of course, some were going to be useless; like [Corruption Poison], [Camouflage], [Copy], [Projection], [False Pain], [Blindness], [Flare], etc.

However, Rey still had very impressive abilities in his arsenal.

[Absolute Wind Magic]. [Absolute Spatial Magic]. [Grand Light Magic]. [Grand Sound Magic]. [Grand Fire Magic]. [Greater Ice Magic]. [Greater Weapon Summon]. [Black Hole]. [Greater Lightning Magic]. [Transmute]. [Greater Explosion Magic]. [Greater Corrosion]. [Force]. [Shadow Magic]. [Gateway Portal]. [Quick Teleport]... and so on.

If it came down to it, he would have to use [Divine Beast Summon] and [Divine Holy Sword].

Rey wanted to avoid that, though. He didn't want to use such Skills in front of Adonis.

'There'd be no getting around that.'

It was better if everyone believed his limits existed in the S-Tier and nothing beyond.

'It's not like I'm entirely out of options...'

He had a total of 69 Skills now.

Rey found it a bit hilarious since that was his current Level as well.

'A perfect way to fight!'

With all these abilities wholly or partially activated, along with the powers hidden within his several Magic Items, Rey felt like he was good to go.

'Now come, Jer'ard! Show me some of that Dragon powe—!'

Before Rey finished his line of thought, he heard a blood curdling scream from above him.

"KYAAAAAAAAAAA!!! W-W-W-WHAT KIND OF MONSTER ARE YOU?!"

The scream came from the Dragon Commander who now looked in horror.

More shrieks proceeded from his lips as he pointed at Rey, trembling to his very core.

His eyes were wide open, with beads of sweat dripping down his face.

All the confidence and pride he once held was nowhere to be seen.

"Y-YOU... YOU'RE NOT HUMAN! YOU CAN'T BE HUMAN"

More screams, as if the Dragon was venturing into the very end of insanity, burst out from Jer'ard's wide open mouth.

Saliva poured out as he shouted, screamed, squeaked. and trembled before a power he now considered to be beyond human.

... To be beyond monstrous!

"H-HOW DO YOU HAVE SO MUCH POWER?! THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!"

Tears were welling up in the Dragon's eyes as he stared at Rey.

"TELL MEEEEEEEEEE!!!"

More saliva splattered out as he asked—no, begged—Rey to reveal the answer to him.

Even the ones who stood behind him also gawked at the display of power and the sharp spoke of power that he was currently exhibiting.

Everything around him was literally fritzing and breaking apart.

He was too strong.

"Hmm..." Rey slightly opened his lips as he looked at the terrified, desperate face of his adversary.

Snot and tears decorated his once haughty face.

"... There's no need to tell a dead man anything."

Rey's crimson gaze flickered with the dangerous words he uttered, pointing his glowing blade at the creature hovering in the air.

"I have nothing to give you but death."

Rey currently didn't have the time to check his Status Window, so he probably didn't really understand how powerful he currently was.

He knew he had become very strong, yes, but since this was the first time he was using so many Skills at once—while having reserves yet to be utilized, an array of Enchanted Items that were waiting to be exploited, and overflowing Mana that waited consumption—he couldn't fully grasp it.

The unbelievable power hidden within him.

[STATUS WINDOW]

- Name: Rey Skylar.
- Race: Human (Otherworlder)
- Class: Elite Enigma (B-Tier)
- Level: 69 (78.54% EXP)
- Life Force: 2,200 (+68) [+300]
- Mana Level: 14,900 (+68) [+500] free(w)ebnov(e)l
- Combat Ability: 13,000 (+68) [+500]
- Stat Points: 0
- Skills (Exclusive): [Doppel]
- Skills (Non-Exclusive): [Fusion/Fission]
- Alignment: Neutral

[Additional Information]

You are a mystery to the world. While the underworld trembles in your presence, those on the surface do not understand your true strength

Are you strong? Are you weak? No one knows.

But you are strong!

[End Of Information]

\*\*\*\*\*

Jer'ard wasn't a very strong Dragon.

He knew that within himself.

There were far more powerful Dragons that existed in the Empire, and he knew he was just about average.

His Combat Ability was quite low, and his Mana was just a bit better than others.

The only reason he was regarded as somewhat special and competent was his S-Tier Skill [Absolute Spatial Magic].

Spatial Magic and Skills weren't that rare among Dragons, but it was very rare for Dragons to have it at such a high Tier.

Especially a Dragon Commander.

Jer'ard was regarded as special only because of that power... a power he was only lucky to have thanks to his superior bloodline.

If it wasn't for his father, then maybe...

Still, he made this power his own.

He utilized it well, and he was able to climb to the ranks of Commander—though that was where he plateaued.

For some reason, he could not rely on his superior bloodline to advance him beyond his current three-horned state.

It seemed it was only Spatial Magic he could obtain from his father's genes.

Still, though, as long as he could live under the illusion of his strength, Jer'ard was fine.

He was still strong when it came to normal standards.

And so, anytime he massacred inferior creatures—like those Hobgoblins who dared to harvest Monster Cores, or the DarkWolves they bred, or the humans who tried to defy him—he was able to momentarily forget his own weakness.

He was able to feel good.

However, at this very moment, the illusion was shattered.

"U-UUUU..."

Now that he was standing before a truly powerful entity, Jer'ard knew he was a fraud.

Deep down, he had always known...

"UWAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHH!!!"

... He was weak!

\*

### **Chapter 169 Ralyks Vs Jer'ard [Pt 1]**

"UWAAAHHHHHHH!!!"

As the Jer'ard, Dragon Commander of the Empire, screamed at the very top of his lungs, the atmosphere changed instantly.

His humanoid form was covered in bluish purple energy as he swiftly transformed—no, reverted—to his original state.

~VWUUUUUSSHHH!~

The form of a Dragon!

His scaly body was colossal, and it displayed nothing short of monstrous majesty.

However, the expression on the Dragon's face showed nothing like that.

It was a look of absolute terror!

"UWOOOAAHHHHHHH!!!"

Dark purple energy gathered in his mouth as it sent the incredible blast of energy straight towards the one who called himself Ralyks.

~BOOOOOOOMMMM!!!~

The entire area trembled as the blast neared him, completely obliterating everything around.

Magic Crystals turned to dust, and the environment shook violently as it welcomed the destructive darkness that was Jer'ard's Dragon Breath.

It was invincible... or so it was supposed to be.

~VWUUSH!~

In an instant, the blast of dark energy hit a wall that stopped it dead in its tracks.

It was an absolute barrier that had not even a single dent despite taking on the whole wrath of the Dragon.

'H-he has that pesky defense too?! In that case...!'

Jer'ard decided to simply use the same trick he utilized on the one who fought him before.

He would simply transport the blast straight in front of his enemy, bypassing his defense altogether.

~BOOOOOOOM!~

The second volley of destruction arrived.

However...

'W-what is this?!'

His Spatial Magic wasn't working!

The portal he was trying to connect to the very face of his opponent was not working!

Jer'ard had been using Spatial Magic all his life, and he had never encountered this problem before.

Sure, he made sure never to seriously use his Magic against a more powerful Spatial Magic user, but other than that...

... His attacks always hit!

So what was the problem?!

'N-no way...!' It only took Jer'ard a few seconds to figure it all out.

'It's the space... the space around him is too warped! It's too saturated with power that my own power gets broken down and overwhelmed before it can fully manifest!'

It was just like with Adonis' Divine Sword, but...

'... Isn't this stronger?!'

Jer'ard was panicking now.

He had no way to attack this guy as long as his barrier was active, and he couldn't bypass the barrier thanks to the overwhelming power he wielded.

What could he do?!

'Aha!' His eyes went to the weakened ones that Ralyks came to protect.

Surely, if he attacked them, or even took a few as hostages, then it was possible to turn the tides of battle in his favor.

'Humans are such sentimental beings, after all!'

He remembered how Adonis became distracted and received a fatal hit simply because he was too concerned with the humans.

This was precisely that scenario on repeat.

No... this was on a much larger scale!

Jer'ard was much stronger in this form, and his opponent was incredibly more powerful.

But, with this plan in motion, victory was assured!

~VWUUSH!~

He opened a portal and aimed to yank one of the vulnerable humans from the group.

He went for the shivering, scared blonde.

She seemed to be the weakest target, and Jer'ard remembered telling her that she would be the first one he would kill.

He swiftly took action, dipping his hand in the portal, expecting to grab her and bring her to him.

However...

~SWISH!~

... That was not at all what happened.

"GUARRRGHHHH!"

The moment his hand proceeded out of the portal, it was cleanly sliced off by an invisible blade.

Everything that entered the portal was gone, leaving Jer'ard with only a part of his hand—as well as incredible pain.

He held his hand with his other one, flying back in recoil.

His massive body seemed so small under the weight of the incredible pain and fear that assailed him.

"H-how...?"

Was it perhaps a Skill that Ralyks had? Did he also possess some kind of spatial attack?

What ability could have done something like that so quickly?

"W-what power... did you use?"

Of course, he wasn't expecting Ralyks to answer him. He just pondered so deeply that his thoughts ended up being leaked out.

"What the hell are you talking about?"

As Ralyks' deep, fear-inducing voice surged forth, he slightly swung his blade, causing splatters of dragon blood to stain the ground.

Jer'ard's eyes widened as he recognized the purple fluid to be his own.

'H-how did my blood stain his blade...?'

The answer was shortly revealed by the Dark Adventurer himself.

"I simply went and sliced your arm off."

That was all there was all there was to the act.

The moment Jer'ard opened the portal and went after the girl, Ralyks simply proceeded to the location, cut the Dragon's hand, and returned to his position.

It wasn't too difficult.

... Not for Ralyks!

"Y-YOU—!!!"

Jer'ard knew his arm would soon grow back, and it was already undergoing regeneration, but the fear he still felt was indescribable.

It was so instinctive—as if he was looking at a being who stood at a higher precipice than him.

But how was that possible?

Dragons were the strongest beings in H'Trae!

It felt strange—no, downright unnatural—that a human-looking fellow should make him feel this way.

Jer'ard could not accept it.

"I REFUSE TO ACCEPT IT!"

With a mighty roar, he mustered all of his power and raised his mouth in the air.

~VWUUUUUMMMM!!~

Something began to form above it.

Something dangerous.

The air cackled with power and the Mana Crystals that hung around began to react to the power being displayed in the air.

Everything was rattling, and the entire 99th Floor shook just from the pressure.

But one man remained calm despite it all.

"This isn't good." He said.

Jer'ard heard that small whisper and presumed it to mean the man had been pushed to a corner.

'Hahahaha! With this, I'll destroy everything! Let's see if you can protect yourself and your friends with that power!'

The entire 99th Floor was going to be leveled by him.

It was going to be a waste, since he still had mining left to do, but Jer'ard didn't mind.

If he could exterminate this being—this threat to the hierarchy of the world—then it was worth it.

The Dragons were the strongest.



That COULD NOT change!

"I can't allow you to keep this up. The Alliance needs those resources, after all."

The moment Ralyks said this, he stretched out one hand—the one that didn't possess a blade.

"Let's try this, shall we?" He sounded amused... like he was smiling.

Jer'ard did not—could not—comprehend him.

He only knew one thing.

The current concentration of dark spatial energy that had formed a massive sphere of unparalleled destruction could not be stopped.

It would complete its task and eviscerate everything in its path.

'DIEEEEEEEEE!!!'

The Dragon Commander aimed it at his adversary, knowing that even if he blocked it, the impact would destroy everything.

It was already too late!

This... this was really the end.

"[Absolute Spatial Magic||Black Hole]"

Suddenly, in an unprecedented gust of energy, the impossible was birthed.

A spatial phenomenon that defied expectations.

\*

## **Chapter 170 Ralyks Vs Jer'ard [Pt 2]**

Spatial Magic was incredibly rare, and also difficult to master.

Due to its rarity, not too many Spells related to it existed. Even among said Spells, not too many were high-level.

The Skill: Black Hole, fell under the territory of Spatial Magic.

However, since it consumed a lot of Mana, and it was an uncontrollable force that would only stop if the Mana of its caster ran out, it was placed at B-Tier.

[Singularity Point] was the A-Tier version of the Skill, but it was also very difficult to use.

With the S-Tier [Absolute Spatial Magic] Skill, it was possible to make Black Holes.

However, they were just as unstable and impractical as the lower-tier Skills.

There were simply more efficient ways to use Spatial Magic—even for destruction—other than Black Hole.

But...

An exception could be said to exist.

An unstable Black Hole with the immense control of Absolute Spatial Magic, mixed in with the effects of Grand Magic Mastery and Grand Magic Application.

That could birth something new.

An-all consuming void that could be perfectly manipulated to achieve the desired effects, while also effectively managing the Mana supply and absorption rate.

A perfect Black Hole.

But... it was already very rare to have a Spatial Magic Skill.

Adding two A-Tier Magic Skills that were equally as rare made it very unlikely for such an ability to exist.

No one could possibly have all of them.

No one... except Rey!

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'I figured using [Black Hole] wouldn't cut it since it's just a B-Tier Skill, so I tried using the new Spatial Magic Skill as well...'

Unfortunately for Rey, he had no expertise in Spatial Magic.

He didn't even know any Spells.

However, with a Magic Skill, you could use it freely without a Spell. It was just much easier and better to have Spells that could achieve specific results more efficiently.

Rey had never tried this before, but he decided to use both Skills at the same time.

[Black Hole] and [Absolute Spatial Magic].

And they worked!

Rey didn't know if it was the effect of the [Grand Magic Mastery] Skill that he got from Lucielle, or the [Grand Magic Application] Skill that he got from the Half-Elf he saved.

Either way, it was working perfectly.

The dark void that manifested before his hand was deep and hollow.

Everything around it was swallowed, and Rey directed it towards only one thing.

The dark spatial orb that descended and threatened to wipe everything out.

That was the target.

~VWUUUUUM!~

The void ascended, humming with intensity, as it clashed with the deep purple ball of energy.

It was no competition at all.

In mere seconds, the spatial orb was consumed by the darkness that Rey created, completely vanishing from existence.

And once that was done, Rey closed his palm to form a fist.

The result was expected.

~FUUUUUU!~

The Black Hole imploded, consuming itself until it turned into nothingness.

Once it was done, there was nothing but sparkles of blackness and purple radiating about.

'That was a close one.' Rey sighed in relief as he looked at the clearly shocked face of the Dragon.

It was difficult to fully decipher the expression of a Dragon, since it was a large beast with scales all over, but there was no way anyone could miss this.

It was obvious.

The devastated reaction of the Dragon was too raw for anyone to ignore.

'I guess I just have to end this now.'

The only reason Rey was dragging the battle out was because he wanted Jer'ard to use the remainder of his Skills.

So far, Rey was sure he had seen [Greater Mana Recovery], [Greater Regeneration], [Draconic Breath:Dark], and [Draconic Flight].

He had also displayed his [Absolute Spatial Magic], but Rey already had it so there was no point.

'I'm not sure if he has used [Draconic Power] and [Draconic Resistance] yet, but he definitely hasn't used his [Claw Attack] yet.'

Rey presumed it was a Low-Tier Skill, so the guy probably didn't see any use in utilizing it.

There was also some distance between them, so maybe the Skill also had some 'range' issues.

'It might not be that great, so I shouldn't get too greedy.'

Rey also felt like it was about time to wrap things up, considering the people he came to rescue needed help, and he also promised to save them before dawn.

'As much as I'd like to drag things out, it's best to just end things quickly.'

"Alright then..." As Rey brandished his blade, he shot the Dragon a terrifying glare.

Much to his surprise, the creature was preparing another powerful 'Breath' attack.

Of course, Rey knew it was useless against him, but he was confused as to why it was acting so illogically.

'I guess Dragons aren't as smart as I thought.'

Rey decided to humor the beast by giving it one more chance to attack.

He could use a variety of Skills to defend, deflect, and then counter.

Thus, Rey clenched his blade tight and prepared to strike.

"... Time to end this fi—"

~BOOOOOOOOOO MMM!!~

'H-huh...?' Rey felt his eyes widen in shock as he noticed where the Dragon pointed the blast at.

It wasn't towards him, or the people he came to save.

It was upwards; towards the ceiling!

And then—before Rey could even say a word—the massive thing sprang into the giant hole it created and sped away.

'Hold on... is he trying to escape?!'

It took Rey about a second to process, but he quickly realized that it had to be the case.

'He must already be out of Mana, and he's probably realized he can't beat me.'

The fact that the creature flew off, instead of teleporting, showed just how desperate he was.

'He doesn't have enough juice, eh? I see how it is...'

Rey felt a small smile curling up in his face.

He knew he had to hurry, though.

'But first...!' He turned at Adonis and the rest of the rescue team.

His gaze fell on Brutus too.

"You guys, here." Rey used his [Gateway Portal] to open a doorway which led to the Royal Estate.

It was so easy—so casual—that it stunned those who saw it in action.

"You should all leave with this. I'm going to chase after the Dragon, okay?"

"..."

For a moment, there was pure silence.

No one could even utter a single word in response to Rey's instructions.

To them, what they had just witnessed, had to have been the act of a god.

A being that defied the Dragons and every shred of common sense imaginable.

The Adventurer, Ralyks, was a legend.

"Haaa... these guys..." Rey sighed, already feeling his patience wear thin.

He used his Absolute Wind Magic to carry all of them into the portal he made.

Before they could even react, he closed the thing and sighed to himself.

"Haa! Then there's also the Half-Elf."

Rey sighed, easily making a portal in front of him in order to return to the 33rd Floor where she was still sleeping.

'This entire place might soon become a battlefield. I can't leave her here...'